To the IPC

I strongly object to further coal mining at Boggabri, specifically the Vickery extension. This will totally destroy the town of Boggabri and make it unliveable. The Maules Creek coal mine, owned by Whitehaven, which is nearby has already caused the depopulation of the district. It is the industrialisation of our regional food bowls, which destroys the ability of our nation to have any chance of food sovereignty.

Another urgent problem is the lack of water, especially from the Naomi River, to supply enough water to make this new coal mine viable. The Naomi River was the site of the water rafting in the 2000 Olympic Games. Never again will the river have enough water to repeat that event. We took a holiday in that area a few years ago and there was hardly enough water for boating.

The recent bush fires, that destroyed 2000 homes with the loss of 33 human lives, a billion animals and burnt through 11 million hectares of land, proves that Australia is drying out and needs to conserve our water for human habitation, agriculture and forests if we are to survive as a nation.

We don’t need a coal mine. We have so much sunlight, wind power and other renewable sources of electricity that a dirty, water-wasteful, old fashioned coal mine is inconsistent with a modern economy. Renewables are even cheaper than coal. The subsequent environmental destruction is even more horrific. The owners of coal mines have a history of leaving the community and governments to pay for the rehabilitation of the sites, after the devastation and after they have run off with the profits.

As the IPC decided previously, this is not a fair and just legacy for our children and grandchildren. I urge you to make a decision in the light of our real genuine concerns and anguish for the future.